

Oxfordshire Guardian

City edition

Thursday, November 23 - Wednesday, November 29, 2017

www.oxfordguardian.co.uk

Free



City celebrates
switching on
Christmas lights

➤ Pages B5-9



Plans to triple
size of Museum
of Oxford

➤ Pages 12&13



Win one of 5
hampers full of
festive treats

➤ Page 30

City council leader Bob Pross, pictured, says the scheme will offer 500 new homes including council and affordable housing

THE NEXT PHASE OF REGENERATION

By Samantha McGregor

THE search is on for a developer to bring to life plans for a major regeneration project in Oxford city centre.

Jobs, shops, houses and a bus want to redevelop the former Depots

College land and transform the million-squre-foot site into homes, offices, a 150-bedroom hotel, shops, leisure facilities and a new public square and open space.

The site is a Grade II listed former bus depot, alongside the former Oxford railway station.

The Depots scheme is a joint venture between Oxford City Council and Oxford College, under the company Oxford West End Developments Ltd (OWED).

The land has been acquired from London and Central Railways and Oxford City Council, paving the way

for development to start. It is expected a developer will be appointed in the spring and soon afterwards would be in a position to submit a planning application.

Oxford City Council leader Bob Pross said: "The Depots development is the next important phase of

regeneration for the city's West End and will deliver 500 desperately needed homes, 200 of which at least will be costed shared social homes and another 50 will be affordable intermediate homes."

Continued on page 5

The Oxfordshire Guardian has more printed copies than any other newspaper in the county

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Mum: universities must do more to aid mental health

THE mother of an Oxford student who took his own life is calling for an overhaul to mental health care in universities.

The body of 36-year-old Andrew Kirkham was found in a tent at Port Meadow in December 2011, the day after he had been admitted to medical leave of absence from his studies after telling his GP he was struggling.

He was in his second year at Balliol College, studying physics and philosophy.

Wendy Kirkham believes the services in place are seriously flawed and would like to see mental health care professionals available 24 hours a day across UK university campuses.

Mrs Kirkham told The Telegraph: "It would like to see all universities have mental health specialists available all the time. You should be able to go to a drop in centre and get assessed immediately."

Three months after Kirkham's death, another Oxford undergraduate, Jonathan Bui, also took his own life. In 2011, Andrew Mason, a student and UKIP president of Balliol was found dead on his bathroom.

An Oxford University spokesman said: "Andrew's death devastated the college community at Balliol and both the college and the university again extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends."

"They said this university is always ready to improve, we have support workers, counsellors and have a mental health policy in place, as well as a peer support counselling service that provides support to students selected to act as peer supporters."



A real giant of a tale at the Playhouse

IF there's one thing that heralds the arrival of the festive season it's an old-fashioned family pantomime.

And the cast of Jack and the Beanstalk. This year's offering from Oxford Playhouse, dressed in 19th-century period costume, opens on Friday. The pantomime runs until January 7 and features all the right ingredients: a wicked and an over-the-top dame. For ticket information and more go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Fruit trees on the street... Third phase of consultation on vision for 2050

By Samantha McGregor

ENERGY efficient homes, vertical farming on buildings and fruit and trees in our streets.

Although it sounds like the content of a movie, this is what Oxfordshire will be like in 2050 according to the vision it is part of the third phase of an Oxford City Council consultation setting out a future vision for Oxford, which will be used to shape the city's future over the next 40 years. This stage involves local residents and business organisations.

Currently the population is about 111,000 and is expected to increase to around 160,000 by 2050, although there is limited space to build new homes. People are being encouraged to think about how they can live more sustainably and how they can help the environment be improved, and the impact of climate change.

During the consultation council leader Rob Price wants to see whether there are ideas to be more energy efficient and "more designed green spaces and play areas". Dr Barbara Rayment, of Oxford Low Carbon Unit, and the city's most

work towards a low carbon economy to provide clean air, secure energy, healthy homes and healthy communities. Inspired by 2050 everyone would not.

She said: "We will have skilled businesses, plenty of food and not trees and vertical farming growing up the sides of our buildings." The idea of Oxford 2050 is the creation of a single document that sets out everyone's aspirations for the future of Oxford. For more information go to oxford2050.com

'Poor teaching cost me career' - student sues Uni for £1m

A 36-year-old who graduated from Oxford in 2000 has told the High Court that inadequate teaching has cost him a lucrative legal career. The student is suing the university for £1million and claims the quality of teaching is substandard for law, upper second degree.

The student, who has placed an affidavit in court and also alleges medical information about him was not shared with his university, is suing.

Mr Andrew "Singer" Watkins told Mr Justice Patten that his degree in law was "poor" and that he wanted to achieve a postgraduate qualification in it to give himself a career. He said: "While a 2:1 degree from Oxford might rightly earn the student a substantial reward in law, it is not, in my opinion, a sufficient reward for the student's effort and the student's loss of a career in law is a significant loss."

Oxford denies negligence and says the case is outside the legal jurisdiction. Julia Milford, for Oxford University, said the student had received exactly the same amount of teaching as he would have in any other year.

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on the A44 in Woodstock

onevillage.com

One Village Workshop is a pottery and craft workshop in Woodstock. They offer a variety of pottery and craft items, including bowls, vases, and more. They also offer a pottery and craft workshop for children and adults.

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Encouraging more people to love tennis with new floodlit facilities

By George Welch

THOUSANDS of youngsters were the first to try out the new floodlit tennis courts at Florence Park.

The new facilities were officially opened last week, following a joint Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club and Oxford City Council presentation to the local press.

School children, families and players joined the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club and city council representatives for the official opening on last Thursday to see off the new facilities, which also included new nets and goals for all five courts.

New lights will mean six extra hours of play a year for residents – and could mean help for the club's and city council's financial situation.

Council leader Linda Smith, Oxford City Council's executive member for leisure, sport and parks described the opening as "great news".

She said: "The extra playing hours created by the new lighting will mean there will be more opportunity than ever before for Oxford residents to play."

"I have the ability to play until late in the evening but I've got used to many local players who have to stop."

"Florence Park already has a 'green flag' award for the high quality of its facilities, and the upgraded tennis courts will further add to its attraction."

Florence Park is opening as part of a range of community facilities to improve active participation in the sport.

Oxford buildings and improved facilities has helped the number of tennis bookings jump from 100 to 150 in the last two years.

The improvements to Florence Park are part of the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club's vision to create a community tennis centre.



Young players join Parks Tennis coaches, the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club and city council representatives for the official opening of the new floodlit tennis courts at Florence Park.



dedicated at grassroots tennis facilities over the last 10 years.

The initiative aims to help more people playing for longer by doubling the number of floodlit and covered courts and by installing more modern lighting and entry systems to make it easier for people to play.

Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club

representative Nilsa Greenham-Bridge said: "There's been a huge increase in people playing tennis in Oxford."

"These floodlit facilities will enable even more people to get on court by extending playing time. It's great for the club and for the city council."

Rough sleepers given a home thanks to charity

ACHIEVING its objectives helped through rough sleepers find a home. Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club has provided a home for 100 rough sleepers in the last two years.

The improvements to Florence Park are part of the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club's vision to create a community tennis centre.

project, the charity has found overnight accommodation for 100 rough sleepers.

Chris Davies, CEO of Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club, said:

"Many of our supported accommodation at Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club are now open."

employment can be the best building block to a homelessness and to do this people need the ongoing stability of a roof over their head."

For more information about the project, email info@oxfordfloodlittennisclub.co.uk.

Masterplan has business and education area

Continued from front page

The added development will be situated next year by the development partnership which are currently in the planning stage.

"The plan includes creating a business and education area with offices and research spaces. The plan also includes a new site for the development to public transport, cycle road and

residential in the city centre.

There will also be a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the river to the development and a new bridge.

The first phase of building work is expected to start in 2016. The development will be built in phases and work is expected to take three years.

He added that unlike the Westgate development, the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club

project "will not disrupt traffic".

The development is the first to be created in 2015 by the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club.

The Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club is a charity which is a member of the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club. The club is a charity which is a member of the Oxford Floodlit Tennis Club.

ImBrief

Linking twin cities

A WEBSITE created to give information and inspiration for anyone wanting to make links with Oxford's five twin cities has been launched.

The website, oxfordtwin.org.uk, will include photos of each city shared via the hashtag #OxfordTwinCity on Twitter, opportunities to get involved in twinning, and details of future projects.

Oxford's twinning cities are Leiden (Netherlands), Rome (Italy), Lyon (France), Glasgow (Scotland) and Perth (Scotland).

Indian food offer

A NEW Indian street food restaurant has an exclusive offer for guests for its opening week.

The restaurant, *India Gate*, is located in the heart of the city, offering a unique experience for guests. The restaurant is located in the heart of the city, offering a unique experience for guests.

Each meal bought at India Gate will help fund a charity that helps to support the lives of the most vulnerable in the city.

To celebrate the launch week, the restaurant is offering a special offer for guests. The restaurant is offering a special offer for guests.

For more information, contact the restaurant on 01865 510000.

Go to a story? Contact the newsdesk on 01865 510000.

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Cat found dead in horror attack

By Samantha McGregor

AN animal welfare charity has launched an investigation after a "horrific" attack on a cat which was left hanging in a garden.

Police were called to a neighbour's house after cat PawPaw was hanging in a tree near a garden door at Aubrey Road, Kingston, on November 12.

The ASPCA said it was currently unclear whether the cat was still alive when it was hung up on the door.

Dever-Lane Wildlife said the cat was "horrific" because it was dead but it was not clear if it happened in close to home.

PawPaw had been taken in by the family three years ago as a young, pregnant dog and brought to live a nine-year-old cat, Bala, along with PawPaw's cat, Gary.

She said "It's a really sad, Gary is really missing her but as sorry for her."

"After all this time, she was such a little cat and now she's a big cat."

"We were such a beautiful cat, she was really friendly like that really go to bed and I was going to be there."

The cat had been left in the garden and had been left alone for a long time.



PawPaw was found dead by a neighbour

or anything. I want to find out what happened to her."

ASPCA Inspector James Gough said it was "horrific" that anyone could be so cruel to a cat.

He said, "This was very unpleasant and upsetting for the housewife who discovered the cat hanging in a tree."

"Police said the white cat had been hanging from a garden door and had been left alone for a long time."

"It was found in a garden door and had been left alone for a long time."

Anyone with information should contact Kingston police on 0203 221 0000.



South Central Ambulance Service staff get their message across

Slow down and save lives

AMBULANCE staff are urging drivers to slow down and save lives as part of a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of driving too fast.

South Central Ambulance Staff in Kingston joined a national campaign for Road Safety Week, starting on Sunday, urging road users to slow down to save lives.

On average five people every day across the region are killed or seriously injured in road accidents and traffic accidents are the leading

cause of death for people aged 15-34 in the region.

Ross Corbett, clinical operations manager for South Central, said: "My colleagues and I have seen far too many times the devastating impact road traffic collisions can have on the individuals involved and their families."

"Almost a quarter of all fatal road traffic collisions involve a driver or rider looking at their speed limit or travelling too fast for the road conditions. Put simply, by slowing down we could save lives."

InBrief

Court date change

CARRINGTON say the High Court hearing over the Cheltenham General Commissioning Group's (CCG) consultation in the hearing in court at Walsley, South West, on Wednesday and Thursday, December 4 and 5.

It was earlier announced the hearing would be on Thursday and Friday, December 4 and 5.

The legal challenge was moved jointly by Cheltenham district, South West, and the Cheltenham General Commissioning Group, along with campaign group Keep the South West General Commissioning Group.

They will put forward their case for a judicial review at London's Royal Courts of Justice.

Play for the deaf

ACTED that is a play for the deaf and hard of hearing will be staged in London's West End.

The heart felt people of the play will be in the West End in London in the West End in London.

The play will also be staged in the West End in London in the West End in London.

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Little Britain star shows support for filmmakers

By Samantha McGregor

A GROUP of budding filmmakers are seeking a last ditch appeal to raise funds to finish filming their comedy show.

Ross Armstrong and Scott Morgan from *Inspector 211* just £2,900 away from their crowd funding campaign began to make five more episodes to be made.

Last month's year completed the pilot episode of show *It's Other News*, a comedy documentary about a local television station.

They need to raise £2,900 to cover the costs to complete the six-part series.

Last week the team were given a boost after comedian, writer and actor Matt Lucas endorsed their appeal on Twitter.

Lucas, best known for BBC show *Little Britain*, said, "In other news, these young comedians are raising money for their new TV show *It's Other News*."

The comedian has shared a massive following on Twitter.

The show is set to follow the launch of *It's Other News* on South UK TV.



Lucas said the idea for the show came from his time at school in his first job.

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Matt Lucas has given his backing to *It's Other News* and the team behind it.

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InBrief

Play improvements

WITNESS residents are asked to leave their key rings to improve play area.

Following refurbishment of the town's recreation ground, the Lays will meet weekly the children play area. Water Town Council would like to make improvements and wants to know what residents think.

If you have a different survey here for each play area you wish to tell the council about.

To have your say, visit www.water.gov.uk or call 01235 511700.

Tackle cyber crime

THAMES Valley Police have joined a nationwide campaign to help tackle cyber crime.

The force launched the campaign #ProtectYourWorld on Monday with the aim of raising awareness and encouraging residents and businesses to take action and make a report if they feel safe.

Detective Superintendent Gail Wright, head of the TV's specialist operations, said cyber crime affects people from all walks of life and encouraged people to take steps to protect themselves.

He said: "People make targeted for a number of reasons and can take a long time before they realise they have become victims."

The #ProtectYourWorld campaign runs until December 4.



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Vehicle for energy change

A SUPERMARKET and Formula One engineers have teamed up to roll out a ground-breaking piece of technology that will reduce yearly energy consumption by the equivalent of 220 million kwh of electricity.

Group-head Williams and Sainsbury's announced last week they have joined forces to create the world's first shop-in-a-car energy saving and easily integratable in supermarkets.

The drive, already tested in trials, has shown up to 30 per cent reduction in energy consumption, and has been trialled in 10 Sainsbury's stores.

The drive comprises two key components: a smart LED lighting system and smart solar panels. The solar panels are the largest component of power in supermarkets. Greg Wilson, technology director at

Williams Advanced Engineering, said they hope to solve some of society's outstanding challenges.

He said: "Working with Sainsbury's shows how Formula One can be a vehicle for change and a real example of how to engineer advantage for our customers."

"As our quality and sustainability concerns evolve, it's important to ensure there is huge growth potential for our business in developing energy-efficient technology in a range of sectors, not just automotive."

Sainsbury's head of sustainability engineering, energy and environment Paul Chiles, said: "By keeping the light on in our bridges using the technology we have in energy-efficient lights up to 30 per cent, which, when multiplied across all of our stores is a significant amount of energy saved."



Sainsbury's has teamed up with Williams to reduce the energy consumption in its bridges in stores

Plea for UEFA director to come home

By Ben Arminidou

THE wife of a former UEFA director who has been living in exile for months in playing with him to come home as they are Christmas on their way to visit their lives.

Police believe Bernard Evans was in the south of France but may have travelled to Switzerland, where he used to work.

The 50-year-old was last seen in Dublin, where he lives, on December 10.

"We believe Evans had to be last seen in Dublin on December 10, 2013, and he was last seen in Dublin on December 10, 2013."

Mr Evans, a former UEFA director, has been living in exile for months in playing with him to come home as they are Christmas on their way to visit their lives.

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agency (among the authorities) has been left. There is a lot of money in the family's desperate to have him home for Christmas."

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InBrief

Free festive parking

STOCKISTS in South Dublin and the Vile car park for free in Dublin's central car parks on selected days in the run-up to Christmas.

The move is designed to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents.

Drivers can park for free on the following days up to December 24: **Amphlett**, Saturday from December 5, **Dublin**, Friday from December 1, **Pharos**, Saturday from December 1, **Garrett**, Tuesday and Wednesday from November 20, **Wendy**, Tuesday from December 5, **Thames**, Saturday from December 1, **Warrington**, Thursday from November 20, **Warrington**, Friday from November 1.

Visit www.dublin.gov.uk (DCC) and www.dublin.gov.uk (DCC) for more information.

Teens' magic tale

THE Story Museum's latest play ever by a group of teens who have put together an event of magical and mythical imagery.

Exposure to an extensive drama performance, a space full of stars and mythical, a cold and dark and magical world and the story of a young man's journey to find his place.

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Researchers win top prize for refugee support tool

AN international by Oxford University to support refugees has won a national award.

The team from the Centre for Migration, Policy and Society, COMAPS, created a Donations Toolkit, an online tool which helps agencies, organisations and local authorities secure housing and financial support for the most vulnerable.

It was joint winner of the 2017 Community Inequality Awards alongside the history project Our Migration Story by the Inequality Trust.

The awards are the second year were set up to celebrate the best UK organisations which are working to integrate refugees, migrants and local communities.

The aim of the toolkit is to provide information about where migrant families can get support when they are not entitled to local aid.

In making their decision the judges said it was "impeccably well timed as a time when many local agencies are struggling to provide services after cuts to their funding".

Dr Sarah Spencer, a director at COMAPS, said: "Our research found there was a gap between the



Researchers Jacqueline Broadhead and Jonathan Price collected the award at a ceremony in London.

experience in law that children in need would always be supported by local authorities and the reality on the ground.

"Our on-line tool addresses that gap and we are delighted to have won this award because it shows how research can lead to real change for those providing legal advice and services and most importantly for the destitute children and their parents."

Larger museum set to showcase hidden histories

By Ben Atkinson

FINAL designs for a £2.8million project that will triple the size of the Museum of Oxford have been awarded.

The plans were discussed at a meeting earlier this week, with Oxford City Council pledging to contribute more than £500,000 to the project, following an initial pledge of £25,000.

The proposed redevelopment, called Oxford's Hidden Histories, will increase the number of exhibits from 350 to 500, add new galleries and a new space – called Museum Makers – where schoolchildren and communities will be able to handle exhibits.

Councillor Dee Reader, executive board member for culture and communities, said: "The new Museum of Oxford will give a voice to the stories of the individuals, communities and businesses that have built our extremely diverse city and the work has been happening behind the scenes to get it to this point."

"We are now ready to push on with this exciting project, which will celebrate the rich, increasing and varied hidden history of our city and its people."

The cost of the redevelopment has been estimated at £2.8m, following building surveys which also revealed asbestos and damp in the basement of the old museum.

The council will submit an application for a £2.5m grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) later this month.

The corner after 1960 was already earmarked to be closed in 2016 to lead the redevelopment.

The council also intends to raise £400,000 through funding by the museum's development trust. So far, £25,000 has been raised.

To create the new space, the old museum, which closed in 2010, will be taken down along with some of the basement also being brought back online.

The new museum entrance will be accessed from the top of Oxford Town Hall.

While only a few outdoor plans had been produced, the first design



Images of how the new larger Museum of Oxford could look when completed in 2020.

and the activity programme have been created using feedback from a consultation with residents over the summer months.

The city council began discussions about the project two years ago as a response to public demand and it is hoped the redevelopment work will be finished by 2020.

More than 75,000 people visit the Museum of Oxford every year.

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College scoops award for action in the community

By George Walsh

A COLLEGE praised for developing a moral and social code has won a national accolade for a "turn-of-the-century" community project.

Abingdon & Witney College entered the Edge Award for Personal Teaching and Learning at an Association of Colleges (AOC) Regional Awards ceremony at Birmingham last week.

The college, which boasts four campuses, was represented at three ceremonies and collected its award for its Action Top project, which encourages students to help others within the community.

Principal Dr Grottel said it was a "fantastic privilege" to win the award. She said: "We are constantly pleased to have continued our proud tradition of being recognised in multiple categories at the awards."

"To have our own amazing and forward-thinking social projects recognised on the national stage is further education in itself."

"The students and staff community have fully engaged with this initiative, and the staff have worked tirelessly to get it to where it is today."

It involves students in social business, accounting, sport, police, surgery



and events and learners, who come to work collaboratively on social action projects. Activities as part of the Action Top project have included sports coaching at schools, helping to run and support charity events, weekly hospital visits and not waiting at local bus stops.

The college was a close runner-up in the two other categories: the AOC Award for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the Award for the Year Award, where former student Emily Newman's company only entered on its

first year.

Christie Stuart, chair of the AOC National Trust, said: "Entry into the Edge Awards involves many excellent endeavours but the high standard made it hard for us to choose the winners."

"All the entries demonstrated the commitment of colleges to create the best possible experience for their students. Abingdon and Witney College was rightly proud to be named as the winners of their category."

InBrief

Restaurant fire

A FIFTEEN people died at a Grade II listed Chinese restaurant in Oxford. Fire and rescue teams were called to a fire at the business restaurant at Gloucester Green last Thursday at 7.15pm.

On arrival crews were faced with a blaze involving combustible waste at the rear of the building. A group of fire fighters brought the external fire under control, which allowed neighbouring buildings to be checked whether they had spread.

Police are now investigating the cause of the blaze.

Most charming city

1 SAT, Oxford has been officially named the most charming city in the UK.

A Chiltern's Research survey of more than 2,500 people put the city at the top of the pole, with 56 per cent of people naming Oxford as one of the most charming cities.

Drinking too much and antisocial behaviour were named the most unacceptable traits, along with littering, noise and not pulling your weight around the house.

Kendall came second while Glasgow made the final three for most positive only one.

The study also revealed that people thought London men were the most up-and-downers, followed by the English and Welsh.

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Ultrafast broadband to boost rural businesses

By George Walsh

A COLLABORATION of south Oxfordshire farms will be the first in the county to harness the benefits of its ultrafast broadband to its business.

Eleven farms and businesses in the Garsington Valley, near Chipping Norton, between Banbury and the M4, will be the first in the county to harness the benefits of its ultrafast broadband to its business.

The arrival of ultrafast broadband in around 11 months' time will be a welcome boost for farmers who are diversifying into new fields including letting out cottages as well as other revenue streams. The project will provide download speeds of up to 100Mbps per second.

The project will provide download speeds of up to 100Mbps per second.

the village's current speeds.

Samuel All Cornhill said: "The new fibre service will make such a difference to the lives of the people of all ages who live and work here, including younger members of the community who rely on the internet for so much of their studies and homework these days."

The project at Garsington Valley is a "major engineering challenge involving the installation of around 11 kilometres of fibre optic cabling by BT Openreach's engineers."

Samuel has helped keep costs down by allowing its own staff to use their own equipment to do some of the digging. County councillor David Bartholomew, responsible for broadband and communications, said: "It is an on track for superb broadband to reach its peak cost of

around £100 per mile, but rising to high-speed broadband in the last few per cent in challenging and needs some and innovative solutions."

"Our co-funding scheme is just one of the ways we're working hard to make sure we can continue to access the rural technology and contributing to our scheme to make Oxfordshire one of the best served counties in the UK for digital infrastructure."

The co-funding partnerships led by Oxfordshire County Council and BT as part of the government's broadband delivery UK programme.

Under the scheme, the county council will contribute up to 15% per premise with Openreach covering the upgrade work.

Visit tsp1.co.uk/garsington for more information.



From left, Adam Alworth, his daughter Grace and son Harry, and Grace Alworth with daughter Freya

New home for bed company

OXFORDSHIRE'S oldest independent bed business celebrated its 50th anniversary last week with the official launch of its new showroom in the company's hometown of Abingdon.

Abingdon Beds & Interiors has moved from its historic corner of Spring Road into new premises a mile down the road to a new retail warehouse on Market Road. The reason for the move from company's historic corner of Spring Road into new premises a mile down the road to a new retail warehouse on Market Road. The reason for the move from company's historic corner of Spring Road into new premises a mile down the road to a new retail warehouse on Market Road.

Now a team of six, the company remains in the family with the couple's sons, Adam and Grace Alworth, at the helm. The new 7,000 square foot premises has allowed the business to extend its range with extra customer parking as well. Grace said: "We have been on the corner of Spring Road for the past three decades and during that time we have built up a great reputation across Oxfordshire. The move is the start of an exciting new chapter for the business."

Youngsters have a splashing way to help sick children

COLLEAGUES from an Oxfordshire swimming club have realised their part in raising more than 10,000 for sick kids.

Swimmers from Fiddle Sheds, near Woking, have realised their part in raising more than 10,000 for sick kids. Swimmers from Fiddle Sheds, near Woking, have realised their part in raising more than 10,000 for sick kids.

The money has been donated to BSA's (Swimming for Sick Children) and the Oxfordshire Swimming Club, which has been instrumental in raising more than 10,000 for sick kids.

John Alworth, of Fiddle Sheds, said: "We are so proud of all the children, past and present, who have taken part in our charity swim events."

"They all came together to learn and share their experiences."

"We want every child to have a swimming, respect the water and swim safely. That's why we make sure our children are safe and sound."

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'Music that Rea-ly interests me'

By Samantha McGregor

THE legendary Chris Penn is stopping off in Oxford on the final leg of his tour of the Southeast.

His current tour has seen him play in Germany, Estonia, Florida, Belgium and more.

The English singer-songwriter best known for tunes including *The Road to Hell*, *Driving Home for Christmas* and *Fast If You Think It's Over*, has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide.

The interior is filled with rock boulders that showcase life's ancient history—just as a super volcano used to erupt within miles.

Barry's Malibu-dreamhouse 1971 disc spawned his debut album in 1973 and jumpily lost a huge 425 lb with his full body in the first of the album, *Feed & You Think It's Good*. In 1975, Barry's 10th studio album, *Barry*, began with more than half a million copies after *Can't Have Your Heartbreak Income* a Top 20 hit and a hit.

His follow-up, *Wired To The Moon*, was also a success, and led to more of *Garage*. In 2002 *Planet King Of The Beach* earned the Top 20 but after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer he was forced to take a break from recording.



2020 he has since released a string of records, and completed four. Now, if health plagued him when in 2010 he had a stroke — he has since battled back to good health releasing *Forest Songs for Lovers* in September.

He said "I was never a rock star or any star and all the drugs had been

my chance to do what I always wanted to do with music.

And by that he means making music, painting and the blues.



Star runner Andrew Bird and long jumper Mike Douglas

Putting The Glee into Christmas

DECEMBER at Oxford comedy club
The films will almost surely feature

The top-center comedy lineup kicks off with the game-changing, loop-flaying stand-up Rob Downing who performs stand-up comedy with music, a guitar, a large pedal octave voice to create impressive walk and pop soundscapes and, of course, *solos*.

The top-center comedy lineup kicks off with the game-changing, loop-flaying stand-up Rob Downing who performs stand-up comedy with music, a guitar, a large pedal octave voice to create impressive walk and pop soundscapes and, of course, *solos*.

Also taking to the stage on December 2 is Tom Allen, touring partner Gus Buffell.

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John Fithian and Mary H. Brown, he told Sammons who has previously worked with a string of big names including Judy Garland, The Rat Pack, Dave Day, Tommy Cooper, and Eric Burdon.

Each musical comedian Kase Lacey and Tim and stand-up actress Junie Bynette of the arena on December 18, and Christmas weekend (October 22) showman Charlie Sheen and his fifty-year-old young comedian Tim Lincecum take to the stage.

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Join Toad and friends on the river

By Samantha McGreger

This Christmas two hearty, companionable, warm-up songs and a magical and magical tale of a boy and his dog are being told in the Willow.

Christian Theatre Company has joined forces with Chelwood Theatre Company to present the show at Barbury's Mill Arts Centre from December 8 until December 30.

This is Christmas and Christmas, at the Mill in Barbury - two years it brings back the much-loved story of the Willow Tree 2014, which has been adapted for the stage by Ian Jones and is directed by Timmie Pate of Chelwood Theatre Company.

Toad hasn't been seen since the most recent of his escapades back then. Toad doesn't need to visit on the river and his dog and his dog have taken on an adventure they didn't expect - or perhaps they did.

With a mix of some troublemaker, some are going to take over the show.

How will police be treated in the show?

Christian Theatre Company (C.T.C.) said: "Audience love our magical Willow in the Willow at the Barbury Mill in 2014, so we are really excited to bring it to Barbury this year. There are plenty of things, stories, songs and music about in books - what will you see?"



For the past 21 years Christian Theatre has been performing classic stories and Shakespeare's plays in small spaces including Barbury in Barbury and Barbury's Mill. The show has been seen by more than 500,000 people. Christian also has an education

programme which involves 2,000 children every year through live performances, its weekly drama club, holiday workshops and tours to Barbury. The show of Christian is also staging Christmas in Barbury. Christian also has an education

Well Arts Centre join the fun to find out and try out. The show is now published in the show. For more information and tickets call Christian's Box Office on 01235 274600 or go to thechristiantheatre.co.uk

On stage

Rare performance

Patricia Ward Quince & Friends will perform at The Willow in Barbury, Barbury, Barbury.

The performance, which starts at 7.30pm, features music by Richard Strauss, Suite Op. 8 and Op. 8 and Op. 7 in C-flat.

Quince has said that a rare performance due to the difficulty in getting the number of performers together. Tickets cost £10 and are available on the door.

Christmas Oratorio

Worship Group Society will perform its Christmas Oratorio on December 8 at Barbury's Mill Arts Centre. The performance, which starts at 7.30pm, features music by Richard Strauss, Suite Op. 8 and Op. 7 in C-flat. Tickets cost £10 and are available on the door.

The human iPod

Young person David Parsons, who is blind and severely autistic, will perform at The Willow, Barbury, Barbury, Barbury. The performance, which starts at 7.30pm, features music by Richard Strauss, Suite Op. 8 and Op. 7 in C-flat. Tickets cost £10 and are available on the door.

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Advertorial

DIDCOT STREET FAIR TO ROCK TO THE SOUNDS OF THE '60S

Even if you were not a child of the '60s, no doubt you will be familiar with the music of the 'Swinging Sixties'. This was the decade that launched bands such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, The Who and the Beach Boys. Now Didcot Street Fair will be bringing back this memorable music at their Street Fair to be held on Thursday 30th November from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

Not only will the event feature a host of traders and craftspeople selling their wares along the Broadway, there will be fun fairs and plenty to eat and drink as you look for stressed Christmas gifts. Then go along and enjoy the music and get into the rhythm as The Orchard Centre and Broadway open up their stages.

The music starts with the

Rock Choir at 5.00 pm with a rendition of Mattmonia hits. They will be followed by Colin Blackburn, lead singer from the iconic 60's band 'The Zombies' who had hits such as 'She's Not There' and 'Time of the Season' will open the event officially at 5.45 pm at The Orchard Centre. Fave will be able to meet Colin and talk to him about this legendary career.

He will be followed immediately thereafter by Tony Prince 'The Royal Ruler'. Tony was a former programme controller and DJ with Radio Lancashire and he will be joining the Street Fair to launch his new radio station D-Lancashire which will go live on the 1st January 2018. He will also be doing a live show broadcast, recasting the magical sounds of the 60s and will also be happy to sign copies of his

book 'The Royal Ruler and the Highway DJ'.

For fans of the Beatles, come along and listen to Dirty Business at 7.45 pm playing Beatles and rock covers. They will be followed by the UK's premier rolling stones and The Who cover band 'Who Stood What' at 8.30 pm.

A second stage located in the Broadway outside Herts will showcase local talent from the town including the Didcot Indie band The Brittons, the fresh new choir Vocalise, Elvis tribute singer Brian Davis, vintage duo The Lo-Lolas and Didcot's Little Angels.

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Joe O'Brien scores Oxford's second goal but by then it was too little late late. Picture: Steve Durrant

Rovers' three goals in first half burn U's

By George Weekes

Oxford United 2

Blackburn Rovers 4

Charlie Mulgrew 25, Matt Atkinson 37, Joe O'Brien 37, Joe O'Brien 37, Joe O'Brien 37

GOALS: Oxford United pulled their opportunity close into the Skybet League One play-offs with a disappointing 4-2 defeat at first league Blackburn Rovers side.

Blackburn Rovers net early as well were 3-4 up after 33 minutes as Tuesday's contest - if you could call it that.

A first half lesson from defender Charlie Mulgrew told a couple goal from the 10th minute. Atkinson's effective late header only we and suggest any realistic opportunities of getting anything from the match long before half time.

Control first things starting with a Jack Pepper goal in first half injury time and in five Joe O'Brien's five minutes from time, but this was a game that had been rattled from start to finish.

The Lancashire side got off to a flyer when a headed corner found its way to Mulgrew who far post to beat the ball into the net as summarise. The striker later told it was two in three got away for the 17, who were too quickly subdued by the league's pre-season side. A sloppy Rovers. Markie open was away from the goal, who was

blocked by John Mulgrew's excellent header, but Atkinson was there to head in the scrum and convert into a goal net.

Oxford were all at sea and then, while Mulgrew in the area shortly afterwards - center back Mulgrew claimed the spot ball into the bottom corner for 3-4.

The side facing: Goal of nothing through the first half wasn't an easy side on, especially as Tony Atkinson's side had only conceded four goals on the road, the lowest in the EFL, leading into this one.

But mistakes were made as a red corner on the edge of half time when Payne, the only player to probe behind anything threatening at the Rovers' end in the first half, threw Phil Clifton into a collision. The attacking midfielder found enough space just inside the box to

swing a heavily in off the far post.

The 17th minute opened plenty of air and half possession but Blackburn, sitting a lot deeper than in the first half, proved difficult to break down. Payne and substitute Kaine and Alex Stewart found to end the first half again after the hour, but the 17's struggled to create anything dangerous.

Blackburn's defense was the second period had extended Oxford lead on a new surge forward as the game headed into the final 10 minutes.

Goalkeeper Steve Jones and defender Mulgrew's excellent work of Simon Atkinson, a former Black head coach, and also the substitute O'Brien found they were a court score before returning the defeat back to two with a neat finish on 40 minutes.

The best team we've played

PEP Claret refused to blame his defense, instead outlining himself as the Sunday's 4-2 defeat to easily the best team in Skybet League One.

Charlie Mulgrew was left unmarked by Blackburn's defense as he headed Rovers' first goal, a second. David Tennant's headed volley took the lead in the first half and then he led the fourth.

Defensive errors and the generally defensive - described by the United manager as "a little bit hard" - gave Rovers a 3-0 lead at half time.

But Claret refused to publicly blame his defense's performance.

He said: "It is critical to myself and I'll analyse the game to see how we can make a better job. But it is about understanding as well that mistakes happen."

"We all know that mistakes happen in the game - and in life - and it is just about using your head up and saying 'okay, let's move forward'."

"I'm more focused on how we can get the team playing 90 minutes."

The Spaniard was very impressed by Tony Mulgrew's Blackburn side, who told what they needed to do in the opening 22 minutes before managing the game out.

Claret said: "The opposition were superb. They were really strong and used every machine we tried to get on the back of. Our boys didn't manage to get away from that situation and the game was almost lost for three minutes."

He added: "They really for the best team we've faced the season. I did see a moment of it they don't get it. It's a shame. They have a Championship up their sleeve and it was very hard they went down last season."

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